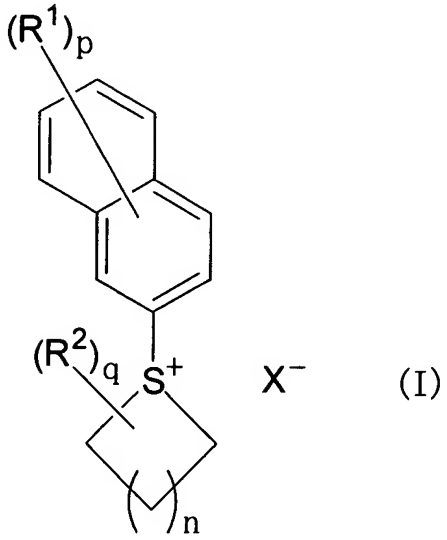
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A sulfonium salt compound shown by the following formula (1),



(I)

wherein R^1 represents a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-14 carbon atoms, a monovalent hydrocarbon group having an alicyclic skeleton and containing 3-14 carbon atoms, a linear or branched alkoxyl group having 1-14 carbon atoms, a group represented by $-OR^3$ (wherein R^3 is a monovalent hydrocarbon group having an alicyclic skeleton and containing 3-14 carbon atoms), a linear or branched alkyl sulfanyl group having 1-14 carbon atoms, an organic sulfanyl group having an alicyclic skeleton and containing 3-14 carbon atoms, a linear or branched alkane sulfonyl group having 1-14 carbon atoms, or an organic sulfonyl group having an alicyclic skeleton and containing 3-14 carbon atoms, two or more R^1 being either the same or different, R^2 represents a substituted or unsubstituted, linear, branched, or cyclic alkyl group having 1-14 carbon atoms, or two or more R^2 groups bond to form a monocyclic structure having 3-14 carbon atoms or a polycyclic structure having 6-14 carbon atoms, two or more R^2 groups being either the same or different, p is an integer of 0-7, q is an integer of 0-6, n is an integer of 0-3, and X^- represents a sulfonic acid anion.

2. (Original) The sulfonium-salt compound according to claim 1, wherein the group X^- in the formula (1) is a sulfonic-acid anion of the following formula (II),

$$R^4—CF_2CF_2SO_3^- \qquad (II)$$

wherein R^4 represents a substituted or unsubstituted, linear or branched alkyl group having 1-14 carbon atoms or a substituted or unsubstituted, monovalent hydrocarbon group having an alicyclic ring and containing 3-14 carbon atoms.

3. (Currently Amended) The sulfonium-salt compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein p is 0 or 1, q is 0, and n is 2 in the formula (I).

4. (Currently Amended) The sulfonium-salt compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein p is 1, q is 0, n is 2, and R^1 is a linear or branched alkoxyl group having 1-14 carbon atoms in the formula (I).

5. (Currently Amended) The sulfonium-salt compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein p is 1, q is 0, n is 2, and R^1 represents $-OR^3$ (wherein R^3 is a monovalent hydrocarbon group having an alicyclic skeleton and containing 3-14 carbon atoms) in the formula (I).

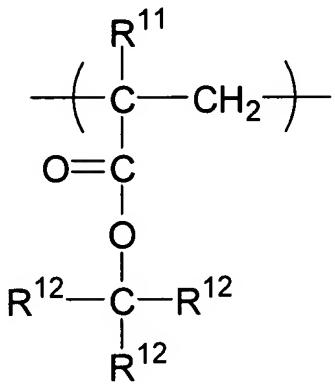
6. (Currently Amended) The sulfonium-salt compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, having a molar extinction coefficient at a wavelength of 193 nm of 10,650 l/mol·cm or less.

7. (Original) A photoacid generator comprising the sulfonium salt compound according to claim 1.

8. (Original) A positive-tone radiation-sensitive resin composition comprising (A) a photoacid generator comprising the photoacid generator according to claim 7 and (B) an acid-

dissociable group-containing resin which is insoluble or scarcely soluble in alkali and becomes alkali soluble when the acid-dissociable group dissociates.

9. (Original) The positive-tone radiation-sensitive resin composition according to claim 8, wherein the resin of the component (B) has a recurring unit of the following formula (10),



(10)

wherein R^{11} represents a hydrogen atom or methyl group and R^{12} individually represents a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-4 carbon atoms or a substituted or unsubstituted monovalent alicyclic hydrocarbon group having 3-20 carbon atoms, or any two of R^{12} groups form, in combination and together with the carbon atom with which these groups bond, a substituted or unsubstituted, bridged or unbridged, divalent alicyclic hydrocarbon group having 3-20 carbon atoms, with the remaining R^{12} group being a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-4 carbon atoms or a substituted or unsubstituted monovalent alicyclic hydrocarbon group having 3-20 carbon atoms.

10. (Original) The positive-tone radiation-sensitive resin composition according to claim 8, wherein the amount of the acid-dissociable groups introduced into the resin (B) is 5-100%.

11. (Original) The positive-tone radiation-sensitive resin composition according to claim 9, wherein any two of the R^{12} groups, in the recurring unit of the formula (10) in the resin (B), form, in combination and together with the carbon atom with which these groups bond, a substituted or unsubstituted, bridged or unbridged, divalent alicyclic hydrocarbon group having

3-20 carbon atoms, with the remaining R^{12} group being a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-4 carbon atoms.

12. (Original) The positive-tone radiation-sensitive resin composition according to claim 9, wherein any two of the R^{12} groups, in the recurring unit of the formula (10) in the resin (B), form, in combination and together with the carbon atom with which these groups bond, a substituted or unsubstituted, bridged or unbridged, divalent alicyclic hydrocarbon group having 3-20 carbon atoms and the remaining R^{12} group is a linear alkyl group having 1-4 carbon atoms.

13. (Original) The positive-tone radiation-sensitive resin composition according to claim 8, wherein the resin of the component (B) has a polystyrene-reduced weight molecular weight determined by gel permeation chromatography of 1,000 to 500,000.

14. (Original) The positive-tone radiation-sensitive resin composition according to claim 8, wherein the resin of the component (B) has a ratio (Mw/Mn) of the polystyrene-reduced weight molecular weight (Mw) to the polystyrene-reduced number average molecular weight (Mn) determined by gel permeation chromatography (GPC) of the resin (B) of 1-5.

15. (Original) The positive-tone radiation-sensitive resin composition according to claim 8, wherein the content of the component (A) is 0.001-70 parts by weight for 100 parts by weight of the component (B).

16. (New) The sulfonium-salt compound according to Claim 2, wherein p is 0 or 1, q is 0, and n is 2 in the formula (I).

17. (New) The sulfonium-salt compound according to Claim 2, wherein p is 1, q is 0, n is 2, and R^1 is a linear or branched alkoxyl group having 1-14 carbon atoms in the formula (I).

18. (New) The sulfonium-salt compound according to Claim 2, wherein p is 1, q is 0, n is 2, and R^1 represents $-OR^3$ (wherein R^3 is a monovalent hydrocarbon group having an alicyclic skeleton and containing 3-14 carbon atoms) in the formula (I).

19. (New) The sulfonium-salt compound according to Claim 2, having a molar extinction coefficient at a wavelength of 193 nm of 10,650 l/mol·cm or less.